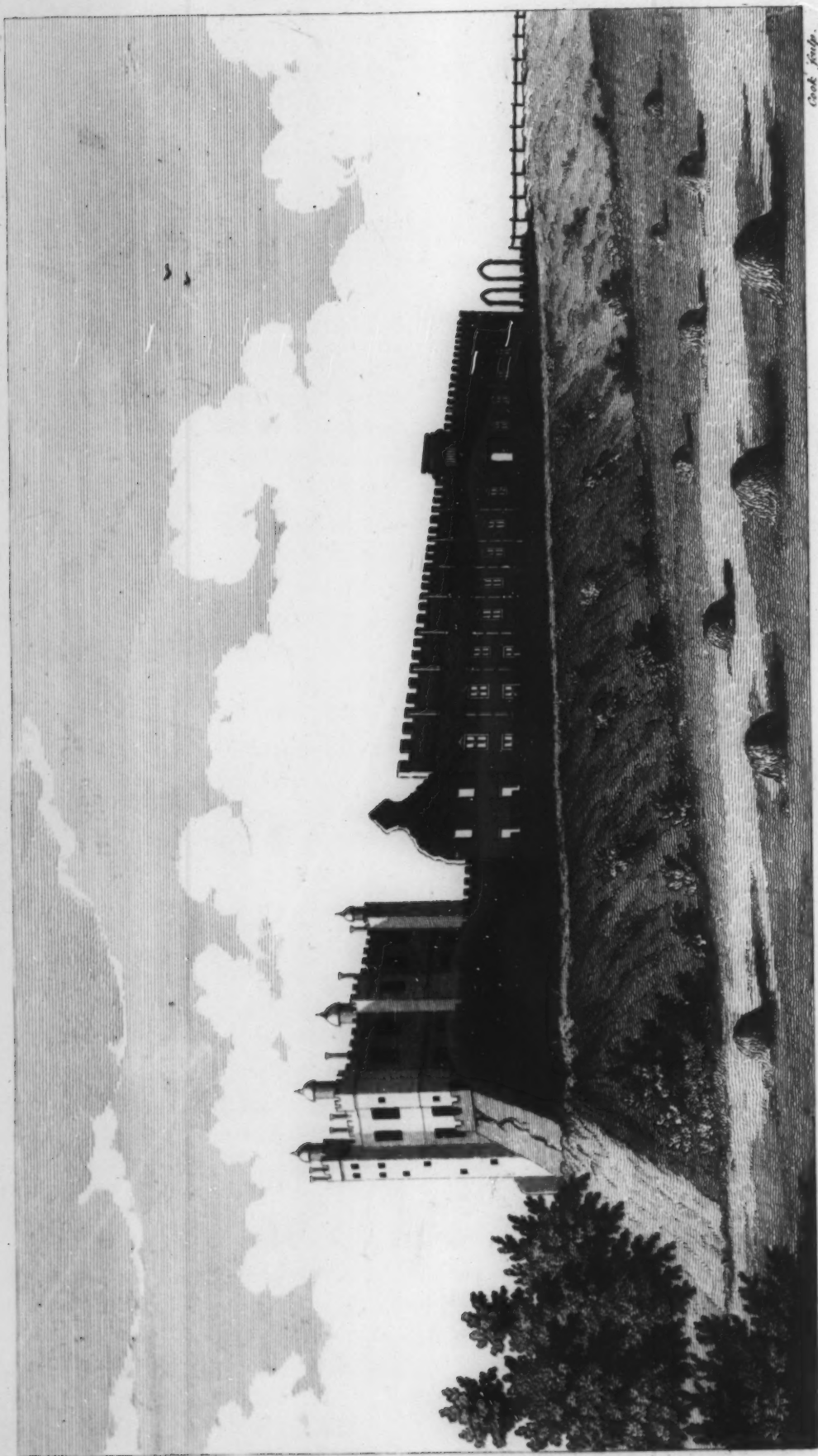




Crab. 1783.

West View of Bolsover Castle 1783.

SKETCH OF THE HISTORY
OF
BOLSOVER AND PEAK CASTLES,
IN THE COUNTY OF DERBY.

BY THE REVEREND SAMUEL PEGGE, M. A.

IN A LETTER TO
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF PORTLAND.

ILLUSTRATED WITH VARIOUS DRAWINGS.

BY HAYMAN ROOKE, ESQUIRE.

FORMING NO. XXXII. OF THE
BIBLIOTHECA TOPOGRAPHICA BRITANNICA.

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BOISVOIR AND LEA CASTLES

IN THE COUNTY OF BERRY

BY THE REV. SAMUEL PUGH, M.A.

A LETTER TO

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF PORTLAND



OF ANTIQUITIES

BY THE REV. SAMUEL PUGH, M.A.

AND NO. XXVII. OF THE

BRITISH MUSEUM

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SKETCH OF THE HISTORY
OF
BOLSOVER AND PEAK CASTLES.

TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF PORTLAND.

MY LORD DUKE,

AS there is a fine view from the garden of my little rectory of Whittington, of your Grace's castle of Bolsover, especially at sunset, when, the castle bearing east, and perched as it were on the brow of the hill, which forms the very edge of the horizon, the sun darts his beams directly upon it; a person must be impressed with a very small degree of curiosity not to be excited to the making of some enquiry into the original and subsequent history of so striking an object.

But Mr. Rooke, my Lord, our common friend, has added a further incitement to my natural inclinations, by presenting me with certain elegant and accurate views of the castle in its present state. And as these, it is presumed, are the only drawings extant, intended I mean to be engraved for publication, they, and the following short memoir, may not improperly accompany one another. However, my Lord, we shall think ourselves extremely happy, I answer for both, if our joint endeavours to elucidate the subject be but so fortunate as to afford your Grace one single grain of satisfaction.

Mr.

Mr. Rooke's performances indeed will receive but little illustration from the verbal history; but the latter will be greatly benefited by them, as will immediately appear from the next paragraph, as also from many other passages in the sequel, wherein references must necessarily be made unto them. The greater our obligation to him.

The Castle, my Lord, at present, may be said in one sense, to be a ruin; in another, not. For explanation of this, I beg leave to observe that though the house at the North end *, towering aloft † with a great degree of magnificence, be in good order, and at this time an habitable, though not a very convenient dwelling; yet the other part or main body of the edifice, as appears from the plate ‡, is in a very ruinous condition, being, as we suppose, never completely finished at first, and many of the materials since then, both stone and timber, carried away, insomuch, that it is now, though the plan was originally superb, in a very dilapidated state. In regard to the second particular, *its not being a ruin in any other sense*, I wish to note, that of the first castellated fabric at this place, erected not long after the Norman conquest, as we shall shew, not a single vestige now openly remains, but, as Lucan says of Troy, in Julius Cæsar's time, — *Etiam perire ruinæ*.

The only persons of our antiquarian draughtsmen, who have noticed this castle, are Messieurs Buck, who have given N. E. and W. views of it as it appeared in 1728, though your Grace may probably have a view of it yourself by Diepenbeck §. Nor does it appear to have fallen under the descriptive and critical pen of the curious Mr. Edward King ||.

Belesoure [Bolsover] belonged, when Domesday-book was made, to

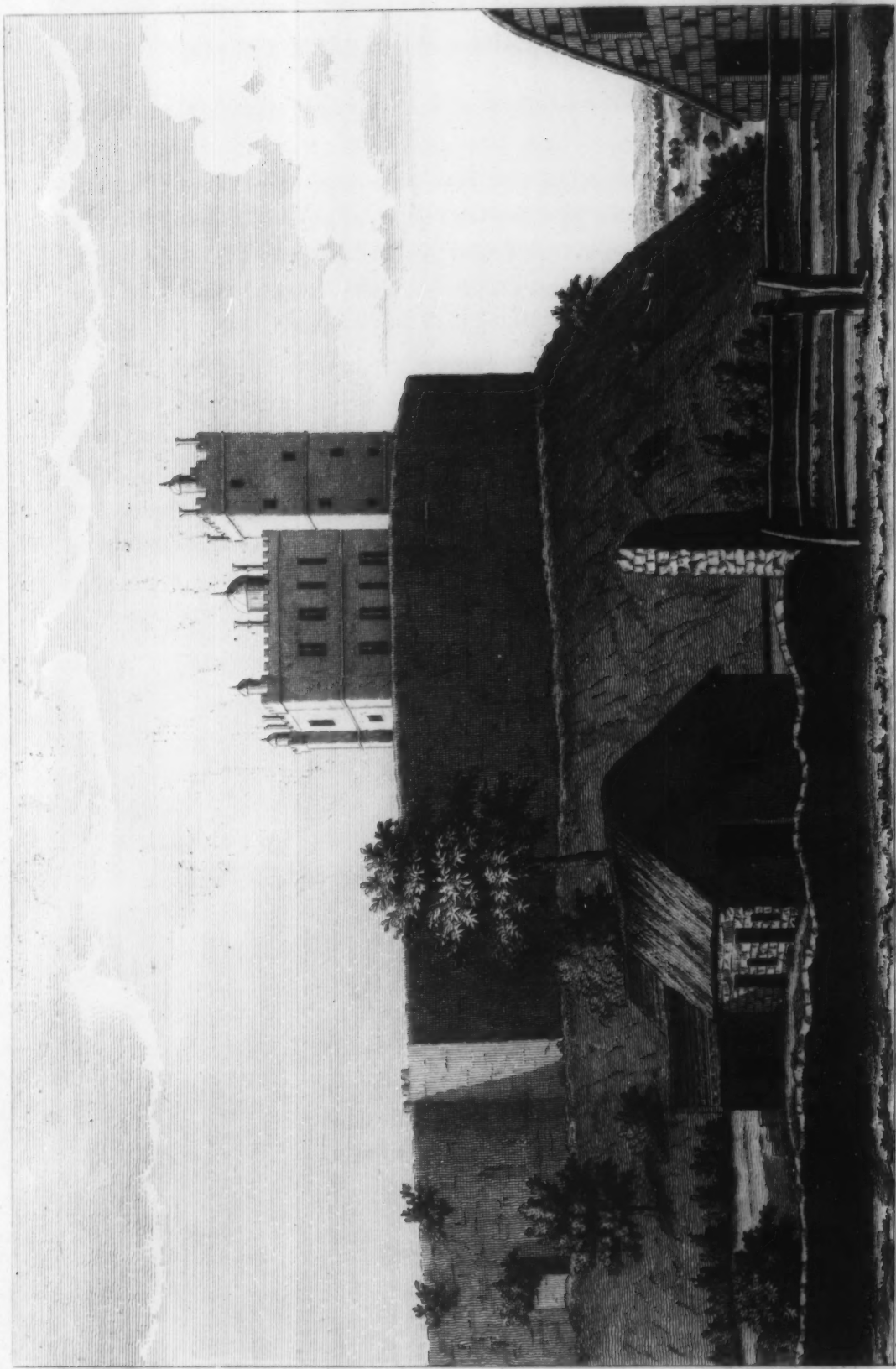
* Plate N^o I. and II.

† This structure is so highly elevated, that from the roof or top of it Lincoln minster, in a proper disposition of the atmosphere, is easily seen, though distant between 40 and 50 miles.

‡ Plate, N^o. I.

§ Biographia Brit. vol. III. p. 336.

|| Archæologia, Soc. Antiq. vol. VI. p. 235, seq.



North view of Bolsover Castle taken May, 1785.

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William Peverell *, but no castle is noticed in that record, as in other cases †; so that he, doubtless, who was in great trust with the Conqueror, was his natural son, and had a considerable estate in Derbyshire ‡, was the person who first erected this fortress. Indeed the *Peverel-road*, as it is called, which is yet in being, though unfrequented, and commencing at this place, proceeds toward the other mansion § of the Peverels at South Winfield, in this county ||, is a clear and unequivocal evidence at this day, that he built Bolsover-castle, though the time *when* may be matter of uncertainty, since he lived till 7 Stephen, A. 1142. But be the precise time when it will, the castle stands, as was observed, on the brow of a hill which commands a noble and most extensive prospect, and in conjunction with Peak-castle, which we shall show was also Peverel's ¶, and *generally* was intrusted to the same governor **, seems to have been sufficient for the purpose of controlling and keeping in order all the northern part of the county of Derby. This, my Lord, is a circumstance of some weight, as seeming pretty strongly to imply, that both castles were the work of the same founder, and constructed with the same view and design.

* TERRA WILLI PEVREL.

In BELESOVRE. hñ Leuricus. III. car⁴ tre ad gtd.
 Tra. IIII. car⁴. Ibi nñ in dñio. II. car⁴. 7 XIII. uitt⁴
 7 III. bord⁴. hñtes. IIII. car⁴. 7 VIII. ac pti Silua past⁴
 II. lev lñ. 7 I. lat⁴. T.R.E. uat. XL. sof. m LX. Robt tenet.

† Peak-castle, York, Lincoln, &c.

‡ He had 14 lordships there, and Bolsover amongst them. Dugdale's Bar. I. p. 436. I find not, however, quite so many in the printed Domesday.

§ I term it a mansion-house, because I apprehend it not to have been kernelated, or converted into a castle, till afterwards.

|| In an authentic series which I have seen of the proprietors of Winfield manor, William Peverell succeeds Roger Pictaviensis about A. D. 1101, &c. Domesday, p. 273. ¶ P. 10. below.

** This also will appear in many instances below.

William

William Peverel, son of the former, by a very foul act, that of poisoning Ranulph earl of Chester, A. D. 1153, in the reign of king Stephen, forfeited his estate, and his employments to the crown. Part of his demesnes continued many years after in the hands of Henry II. as appears by the sheriff's accounts, but another part went to the criminal's daughter*. As to our castle in particular, it certainly was vested in the crown, for Richard I. in the first year of his reign, gave the castles of *Pecci* and *Bolsoveres* to his brother *John*, afterwards king, on his marriage with the daughter and coheir of the earl of Gloucester†. This is the first mention made, we presume, of this castle, unless perhaps it be specified in the sheriff's accounts just above-named, of which, as that particular is taken from Dugdale, and I have not seen the accounts myself, I cannot be certain.

In the quarrel which afterwards ensued between *Longchamp* bishop of Ely, and this *John*, then earl of Mortaigne, during the absence of king Richard in the *Holy Land*, the castle of *Pec* was committed, by agreement, to the bishop of Coventry, Hugh de Nonant, and that of *Bolsofres* to *Richard del Pec*‡, if he was willing to receive it; if not this also was to pass into the custody of the same prelate§. Richard, however, accepted||, and received forty pounds for the service¶ at one time, from Geoffrey Fitz-Peter, one of the Regents** ; more might be paid him after. As to the prelate Hugh de Nonant, the order often went to the war in these times††, and therefore it could not be thought

* Leland's Collectan. I. p. 289. Dugdale's Bar. I. p. 437. Thoroton's Antiq. of Not. p. 489.

† Roger Hoveden, p. 655. Dugd. Bar. I. p. 80. See also Madox's Hist. of Excheq. p. 297. 2nd Edit.

‡ One of the king's Justiciaries, 26 Hen. II. Madox, p. 137.

§ Hoveden, p. 700.

|| Leland's Collect. I. p. 291. Madox's Hist. of Exchequer, II. p. 220.

¶ Madox's Hist. of Exchequer. II. p. 220. ** Ibid. I. p. 34, 35.

†† See the Life of this man in Godwin de Præsul. p. 304. Ed. Richardson.

out of character, that the custody of castles should be committed to them *, or that they should be sheriffs of counties †; Hugh was a very bustling man, and smarted at last for confederating with Earl John ‡.

These fortresses, it seems, were thought of importance at this time, and we shall find them of equal consequence hereafter. They were both very strong, that in the *Peak* being almost impregnable, and this at *Bolsover* having a broad and deep ditch on the N. E. and East sides, where it was almost assailable. I cannot but think, and I collect it from the preceeding transaction between *Longchamp* and earl *John*, that, before the compromise took place, there had been much digladiation at one or both fortresses between the partizans of those two restless and powerful competitors §.

Whether John earl of Mortaigne recovered the two castles in the life-time of his brother *Richard*, is not certain; but after his own accession to the throne, viz. in the 6th year of his reign, he granted the government of Peak-castle to Hugh de Nevill, and that of Bolsover to his great favourite William Briwere ||, whom otherwise he vastly enriched with numerous and large possessions in these parts, particularly with the great manor and borough of Chesterfield, and the hundred of Scarsdale. The great men of these times were all military; but otherwise William was much employed in civil affairs, being a councillor both in John's and Richard's reign, and one of the barons of their exchequer ¶. He was also one of the *regents* when Richard went to the Holy Land **.

Briswere, however, kept not the castle long, since in John's 9th year Bryan de L'Ile was constituted Governor ††. The twin, or sister castles were posts of consideration in this troublesome reign, and by

* Madox, II. p. 343.

† Ibid. I. p. 459. II. p. 179, 180. Castles were often under the care of sheriffs. Idem. I. p. 137, seq.

‡ Godwin, l. c.

§ See the next page.

|| Thoroton, p. 489. Dugd. I. p. 701.

¶ Madox's Hist. of Exchequer, II. p. 314.

** Hoveden, p. 663.

†† Dugdale, I. p. 737.

some means or other, now not known, were gone out of the king's disposal, and kept against him by the *Barons* till the year 1215, when, according to the annals of Dunstaple, they were retaken on *John's* behalf, by William Earl Ferrars, who, as Dugdale informs us, was made governor of both *. Now on such a revolution, effected by force of arms, there would probably be some blood spilt; more likewise might have been shed on occasion of the contests and struggles between the bishop of Ely and the earl of Mortaigne, as above-mentioned; so that whereas two crosses are now seen lying along in a very unnatural state (for they certainly once lay flat on the ground as gravestones) and are wrought into the wall which supports the terrace on the west side †, as is here expressed in the plate N^o III. it is more than probable that they were the sepulchral tokens of Christians that falling in action, and possibly in one of those aforementioned, were interred at the foot of the wall. Whether there was a chapel then in the garrison, as afterwards there was ‡, is not known; but supposing the affirmative, these parties, as assailants, were not likely to receive burial there. The crosses are evidently of the same form and style, of a rude sculpture in relief, very ancient, and introduced into the wall at some later period. The small fastening stones along the top of the longer are a plain argument of this. Now, that assaults, and skirmishes in consequence, have sometimes happened at this place, is indubitable; for the natives of the town inform, that a few years ago, in digging for stones on the north-side of the castle, a great many human bones were found, which must have been the relicks of assailants slain in perhaps repeated attacks.

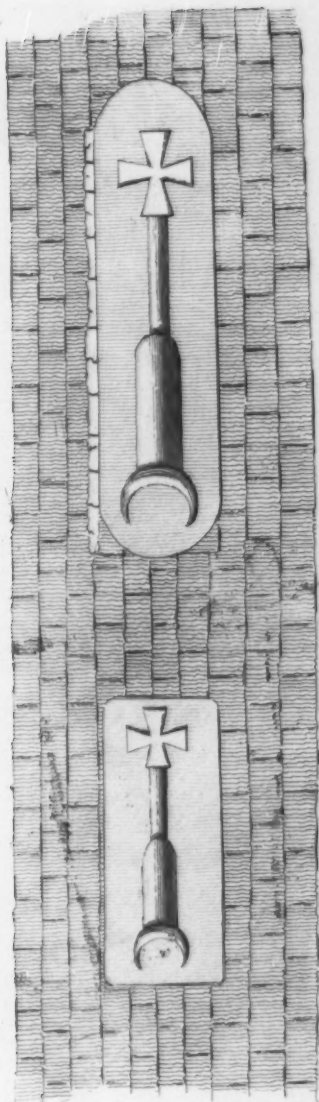
I go on with the history. Bryan de L'Isle accounted 17 John, for

* Annal. Dunstap. p. 82. Dugd. I. p. 261. Mr. Bray, in his *Tour*, p. 343, says, the earl held them six years; but he seems to confound the present transaction with that of 1 Hen. III. to be mentioned below.

† They are about 5 feet from the ground, and near the first gateway marked (p) in the plan. The larger is 5 feet long, and 1 foot 3 broad; the other 3 feet long, and 1 foot 2 broad.

‡ See the plan below.

Pl. III



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the terms of the honour of Peverel and Bolsover Castle, and moreover received a mandate, 18 John, to fortify the castle, and hold it against the rebellious barons; or, if he could not make it tenable, to demolish it*. It was not then destroyed, and therefore we may reasonably conclude, it was rendered at that time a place or *piece*, as the term then was, of good defence and security. King John in his 18th year, appointed Gerard de Furnivall to reside with his wife and family at Bolsover Castle, for the better preservation of the peace of those parts†. Whence it appears, first, that the possession of this fortress was esteemed to contribute materially to the quiet of the neighbouring country: and, 2ndly, that it was not a mere place of strength, as seems to have been the case with the other fort in the Peak‡, but furnished at the same time with all necessary conveniences for inhabitation, and the reception of no inconsiderable household.

We are come to king Henry III. in whose long and tumultuous reign Bolsover was still a fort of great moment and consequence. Anno 1, William Earl Ferrars obtained new patents for the custody of the castles of *Peak* and *Bolsover*, and retained the government of them for full six years§. The commandants were changed so rapidly after this, that to avoid tediousness, I shall with your Grace's leave, abbreviate the matter as much as possible, previously observing, that the references at the end of the respective names go to the first volume of Dugdale's Baronage, and that the Castellans were, as I apprehend, all barons.

Hen. III. anno 7. Bryan de L'Isle above-mentioned, p. 737.

8. Robert de Lexington, p. 743.

8. William Briwere, before named, p. 702-8.

10. Robert de Tatshall, p. 440.

✓ 13. Bryan de L'Isle, p. 737.

* Dugd. Bar. I. p. 737.

† Dugd. Ibid. p. 725. Chauncy's Antiquities of Hertfordshire, p. 341.

‡ See hereafter, p. 13, 14.

§ Dugdale, Ibid. p. 261.

16. Idem, governor of Knaresborough and Peke,
Ibid.

17. Idem, p. 737.

17. Hugh Dispenser, p. 389.

17. Gilbert de Segrave, p. 673.

17. } William earl Ferrars, p. 261, also Dugd.

19. } Monasticon, II. p. 898.

Bolsover, it seems, was granted at last, in this reign, by way of inheritance, to the earls of Chester; and the earl John Scot, dying without issue, 22 Henry III. *Ada*, his fourth sister and coheir, carried it, having obtained it for her share of her brother's estate amongst other manors, to her husband, Henry Hastings Lord Abergavenny*. On this event, Bolsover reverted, by exchange, to the crown, some time before the 29th of Henry's reign, for *Ada* had then certain manors assigned to her, for her full purparty, of which Bolsover is not one†. There is a strange mistake in Mr. Camden‡ relative to this matter; the author there states, in Bishop Gibson's version, that the castle 'formerly belonged to the *Hastings*, lords of Abergavenny, by exchange with 'King Henry the Third;' whereas the truth is as given above, and as the context itself shows, it being there observed, that the king, unwilling that the county of *Chester*, to which *Bolsover* 'belonged, 'should be parcelled out among *distaffs*, gave other lands here and 'there, in lieu thereof, to the sisters of *John Scot*, the last earl.'

Roger, son of Nigel de Luvetot, when sheriff of the counties of Nottingham and Derby, for the last half of the 39th year of Henry, was made governor of Bolsover for the king, now that the fortress was resumed by him§. The famous *Simon Mountfort* extorted from prince *Edward*, when he had him in his custody after the battle of *Lewes*, a patent in the king his father's name, of the castle and honour of *Pec*||; but nothing is there said of Bolsover.

* Thoroton, p. 431. Dugd. p. 45, 46. 574.

† Camden, col. 591. § Dugd. p. 570.

† Dugd. p. 574.

|| Idem, p. 756.

Now,

Now, my Lord, as to this Peak-castle so often mentioned, I shall take the liberty, in this place, of adding a word or two more concerning it. Mr. King calls it *Castleton* *, but very improperly, as this is the name of the adjacent village holding of it †, and denominated from it, quasi Castle-Town. The true designation of the fortress is *Peak-Castle*, with some small variations in the orthography ‡. Mr. King says, 'There is not even any tradition preserved of the first building of *Castleton* §,' meaning this castle; but Mr. Bray, on the contrary, writes, 'Tradition says, that this castle was built by William Peverell, natural son of the Conqueror, who once spent a Christmas here ||.' The latter circumstance may be doubtful, but the erection of the fabric by Peverell can scarcely be questioned, when we reflect what weight of evidence there is to substantiate the tradition. The ground or site of the castle belonged to Peverell; for amongst his lands in Domesday we read,

Terra' in Pechefers ¶ Castelli Wiffi Peurel tenuer Gernebern Hundine.

Whence it appears farther that the castle was not only then existing, and consequently older than that of Bolsover, but actually was the property of William Peverel, as both Camden and Dugdale declare it to have been **. It was accordingly sometimes termed *Castle Peverel* ††; whereupon I beg leave to remark, as very *à propos*, that the words of

* Archæologia, vol. VI. p. 247.

† Inquis. post mortem Roberti Eyre, temp. H. VII. and Rob. Thornhill, 16 H. VIII.

‡ *Pec, Pek, Peek, Peke*, &c. It is called Hope Castle, 28 Edward I. by Dugdale, p. 80, but below in that page it occurs, 4 Edw. II. by its usual name of *Castle of Peke*.

§ Archæologia, VI. p. 248.

|| Bray, Tour, p. 190.

¶ Is this word miswritten for *Pechefors*? id est, Peakeforest. *Terra Castelli* may mean the lands whereon the village of *Castleton* is now built, which held of the castle, as noted above, and which, with its church, might not then have been in being. ** Camden, col. 593, 594. Dugd. Bar. I. p. 80. 437.

†† Dugd. Bar. I. p. 663, 443.

the record above cited may, and perhaps ought to be rendered ‘Gernebern and Hundine held the land of the castle of William Peverel in Pechefers.’

But I proceed with my evidence. ‘4 Edward II. John Earl Warren, obtained a grant of the castle and honour of *Peke* in *Derbyshire*, together with the whole forest of *High Peke*, to hold during his life, in as full and ample manner, as *William Peverel* anciently enjoyed the same, before it came to the kings of *England* by *escheat**,’ implying that this castle was forfeited at the same time as Bolsover was, by William Peverel the son, as related above†. Lastly the *Honour of Peverel* is known to have extended into this neighbourhood‡, inasmuch that the assurance is very strong, that this castle was the work of William Peverel the elder, though perhaps he did not obtain a grant of the entire *Honour of the Peke*, and *forest*, till the reign of king Henry I.§

Mr. King cites an ancient MS. in the college of *Manchester*, which states, according to him, ‘that in this castle William de Peverel||, natural son of William the Conqueror, had his *residence*, and kept his court; and that he had also another habitation, connected with this, ‘at *Brough* or *Burgh*) near Castleton: from whence was an ancient road to Buxton, called long before his time *Batham-gate*, or the gate leading to the Bath¶.’ The inference Mr. King draws from this old account is, ‘that *here* was a very considerable fortress, the *dwelling* of some ancient chief, and his train (for whose use such a road was made), long before the Conquest; and that even William de Peverell found the smallness of this tower inconvenient; *so far was he from*

* Dugd. Bar. I. p. 80.

† Page 6.

‡ The manor of *Hasilback* in *Hope* held of it. Escaet 20 Hen. VII. and *Eyam*. Madox, Hist. of Excheq. V. p. 538.

§ We learn from Dugdale’s *Monasticon*, vol. III. p. 261. that Henry I. gave *Dominium suum de Pecco* to William Peverel.

|| Rectius, William Peverel without *de*.

¶ Archæolog. VI. p. 248.
‘*having*

‘*having built it.*’ But surely this conclusion, my Lord, is very forced and unnatural, since the MS. on which he seems to lay much stress, does not *deny* that Peverel built the castle, but rather, by admitting his *residence* there, appears to corroborate our assertion that he did. As to the notion of there having been a fort here previous to Peverel’s erection, that subject may be resumed by and by; wherefore I only note here, in regard to this nameless MS. that the authority of it is of small estimation with me, be the author’s conceptions concerning Peak castle what they will, since he is so full of fancies, and so daring, as to say there was another like place of residence for Peverel at *Brough*; a particular, which nobody ever saw, or heard of. That there was a Roman station there, is true, and a Roman Road from thence to Buxton, but never was there any structure at the place for Peverel’s *residence*, connected with the Peak castle. Peak castle, my Lord, was a place of uncommon strength, as appears from Mr. King’s description*; and the preferment consisted of the honour, the forest, and the castle, all held of the crown, as of the honour of Tutbury, and having lands and services, which need not here be mentioned, dependant upon them, and some paying ward-money†. It is to be considered again as a mere fortress; for though Mr. King insinuates something about its receiving and entertaining a family‡, and courts might be held and records kept in it§, his own description of the fabric|| plainly excludes every idea of its having ever been more than a garrison. And this seems to be the opinion of Mr. Bray, who observes¶, ‘it was too small to hold any great number of men, and there are no marks of their having been any well in it.’

* Archæologia, vol. VI. p. 247, seq.

† Darley, Chisworth, &c.

‡ King, p. 248, 250, 253, 254. See also the words of the Manchester MS. above.

§ MS. Customarie book of Tutbury, A. 1591. Bray, Tour, p. 196.

|| Where the dimensions within are but 21 feet by 19. It should be remembered here, that the governors were mostly, if not all, barons; and that there are but two rooms.

¶ See Mr. Bray’s Tour, p. 190.

It is highly credible, that in ancient times, long before William Peverel raised his structure, there had existed a fortification at this place and that Peverel in his erection made use of the ruins thereof. This is inferred from some fragments of bricks, which I saw there, anno 1761; and indeed I have Mr. King very clearly concurring with me in this sentiment *, though he seems inclined to think the old ante-norman work rather of Saxon than Roman construction †. The situation, it must be allowed, is such, as to induce invaders of every nation to plant a hold upon it. But as to the *Idol-cell* he speaks of, p. 253, as Saxon, his notion surely is altogether visionary, since it may with much more reason be thought a nich for some favourite Christain Saint. He draws an argument on the occasion again, from the Idols at *Brough*; but nothing can be inferred from them concerning Peak Castle, though they should be deemed Saxon; but by most people they are thought to be Roman.

And now, my Lord, that we are advanced so far, a few words more will suffice for the completion of the history of this almost impregnable fort, namely, a bare recital of those, who held it in severalty and apart from Bolsover. It may be necessary, however, to premise, before we proceed to enumerate these Castellans, that many plans and views have been taken of its ruins, one especially by my late friend the reverend John Watson, rector of Stockport, in Cheshire, in his elaborate memoirs of the Earls Warren, 2 vols. quarto, not yet published.

Castellans of Peak-Castle.

3 Ric. I. committed it to Hugh de Novant, bishop of Litchfield.

Vide supra.

6 Joh. Hugh de Nevill had it. Vide supra.

17 Joh. Ran. Blundevill, Earl of Chester. Dugd. I. p. 42.

13 Hen. III. Bryan de L'Isle, who afterwards had Knaresborough and Peke. Dugd. p. 737.

* King, p. 248.

† Idem, p. 234, 253, 254.

Ditto William earl de Ferrars. Dugd. Monastic. II. p. 897.

16 Hen. III. Bryan de L'Isle had new patents for Knaresborough and Peke.

17 Hen. III. William earl de Ferrars. Dugd. Mon. II. p. 898.

35 Hen. III. Prince Edward. Annal. Dunstap. p. 310.

48 Hen. III. Simon de Mountfort. Vide supra, p. 11.

18 Edw. I. William Earl Warren. Dugd. I. p. 80.

1 Edw. II. Piers Gaveston. Dugd. p. 42.

4 Edw. II. John Earl Warren. Dugd. p. 80.

11 Edw. III. Joan the king's sister. Bray, Tour, p. 191.

46 Edw. III. it was given to John of Gaunt, and absorbed consequently in the Duchy of Lancaster*.

It is time now, my Lord, to return to Bolsover. Ralph Pipard was made governor of Bolsover and *Hareston* castles for life, 30 Edw. I., and died 3 Edw. II. † which plainly shews that the fortress was then in the king's hand; probably it had been in the crown ever since 39 Hen. III. ‡.

19 Ric. II. *R. Stury* had it in possession§, but who this person, so written in my MS extracts, perhaps erroneously, was, I am yet to learn. There is a great gap here, your grace will observe in the history, viz. from 3 Edw. II. to 19 Ric. II. that is, of no less than 85 or 86 years. The same may be said of the next step, where there is a chasm again of 60 years, since we hear nothing of this government till 35 Hen. VI. when Edmund of Hadham, earl of Richmond, died possessed of the castle and lordship of *Horestone* and manor of Bolsover, in the county of Derby ||. The *Castle* indeed of Bolsover is not specifically named in this quotation; but that the castle and the manor went together, and implied each other, there can be little doubt, since the case is so at

* Camden, col. 593. So that when Leland, Itin. VII. p. 34, says, 'Castel of *Hy Peke* longed to the king,' he means as part of the Duchy.

† Dugd. Baron. II. p. 8.

‡ Vide supra, p. 11.

§ Nathaniel Ringross, MS Breviary of Records. || Dugd. Bar. I. p. 237.
this

this day, and we shall meet with instances of the same kind below. We have seen Horestone castle joined with this of Bolsover before, *viz.* 3 Edw. II. whereupon it may be proper to observe, that its *quondam* associate, the castle in the Peak, had been separated from it long before this time, and gone from the crown, by being given in inheritance with the honour and forest to John of Gaunt, 46 Edw. III. as related above, and thereby had become parcel of the great duchy of Lancaster.

A considerable interval is also here again unaccounted for, since we are compelled to leap from 35 Henry VI. to 1 February 5 Henry VIII. when Thomas Howard, the very day he was created duke of Norfolk, obtained a grant in special tail of the castles of Bolsover and Horeston, and the manor of *Horsley*, all in Derbyshire, to be held, with other manors and lordships, by the service of one knight's fee*.

On the attainder of his son, another Thomas Howard, 38 Henry VIII. the castle escheated to the crown, and there remained some little time; 10 April, 5 Edw. VI. the king granted a lease of the manor of Bolsover to sir John Byron, for fifty years; and 20 May, 7 Edward VI. the king granted the same in fee-farm to George Talbot †, knight, lord Talbot, and his heirs.

Dec. 20, 6 Jac. I. A. D. 1608, Gilbert Talbot earl of Shrewsbury, his countess Mary, William Hammond, and Edward Linsell, granted a lease of the manor for 1000 years to Sir Charles Cavendish, knight, for a rent of £10 *per annum*; and 9 August, 11. Jac. I. A. D. 1613, earl Gilbert, in consideration of a certain sum of money, *sold* the manor to Sir Charles, and the deed was enrolled in chancery 20 Aug. 1613.

The castle according to John Leland, was at this time in ruins ‡,

* Dugd. Bar. II. p. 268. He had a second grant, 22 Hen. VIII.

† He died Nov. 18, 33 Eliz. Inquisitio post mortem. I mention this, because on his tomb at Sheffield the time of his death is not specified.

‡ This is from Mr. Bray, for I have not seen the passage in Leland myself. Perhaps he infers it, from Bolsover's being omitted amongst the castles of Derbyshire. Itin. vol. II. p. 34.

but

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but Sir Charles, when in possession by his lease, began, in 1613*, to build the habitable mansion at the north end †, designing it evidently more for a place of abode than a fortification. I cannot find it was ever used for the latter purpose during the grand rebellion in the reign of king Charles I. though, by way of precaution, colonel Muschamp was then made governor of it by the owner, William earl of Newcastle ‡. On the contrary, the parliament, who had seized it on account of the delinquency of its noble proprietor, sold it, and it was begun to be pulled down; but Sir Charles Cavendish, younger brother of the said proprietor, finding means to buy it of the parliamentary purchasers at an advanced price, prevented the total demolition of it§. Sir Charles Cavendish the elder departed this life, A. D. 1617, and was buried at Bolsover ||.

William Cavendish, his eldest surviving son, and afterwards earl, marquis, and duke of Newcastle, was a person of great eminence ¶, and

* Almanack of 1613 penes Joh. Carter de Bolsover, says in a MS. note on Mar. 30, 'Foundation of the *newe house* at Bolsover begune to be layde.'

† Vide plate I. and II. Huntingdon Smithson, living at Bolsover, 1601, was the architect; and a ground-plan by him of the grand building, different from that which was afterwards executed; another plan of the offices, and a third of the *little house*, as he calls it, meaning the structure we are here speaking of; are in the hands of the Rev. D'Ewes Coke, of Broke-hill, purchased by him at lord Byron's sale, 1778, or 1779. This architect died at Bolsover, A. 1648, and was buried in the chancel; and to judge from the first of the above plans, the grand building must have been intended, and perhaps by sir Charles, many years before it was begun; and indeed there was reason sufficient for postponing it till after the restoration. See a further account of Smithson in Mr. Walpole's Anecdotes, vol. II. p. 59. ed. 3. He is there by mistake called John.

‡ Life of Duke of Newcastle, by the Duchess, p. 115.

§ Collins, p. 24, 42.

|| Collins's Collections on the family of Cavendish, &c. p. 20. & seq.

¶ Life written by the duchess his second wife. Collins, ut supra. Biographia Brit. Tom. III. Dugd. Baron. vol. II. alii.

probably born at Handsworth, com. Ebor. A. D. 1593 *. He was at Bolsover with some forces, A. 1643, but made only a short stay †. The castle was then in a very respectable state, though not the place of his ordinary residence, as appears from this singular circumstance. King Charles I. was entertained by this great and opulent nobleman three different times; the charge of the first reception was above £.4000, of the second near £.15,000, and of the third, which was but a slight business, £.1500. The queen was present on the second occasion, and the banquet was furnished at Bolsover, in the most superb manner, the earl residing there for the time with his domesticks, while his majesty, his court and retinue, were accommodated at Welbeck ‡. The cost was truly immense for those times, but William was a princely man. After the restoration of Charles II. to his throne, and himself to his shattered and broken fortunes; and after spending some time in regulating, recovering, and recruiting his estate; duke William began a noble fabrick on a very magnificent plan §, but never finished it.

Henry, duke of Newcastle, son of William, resided often at Bolsover, and was there interred ||, as likewise were many others of this branch of the great family of Cavendish. Whereupon it may be proper to note, that this castle and the manor were the *barony* of William when created viscount Mansfield, or earl of Newcastle ¶; and that it is from the same that *Bolsover-street* at London is denominated.

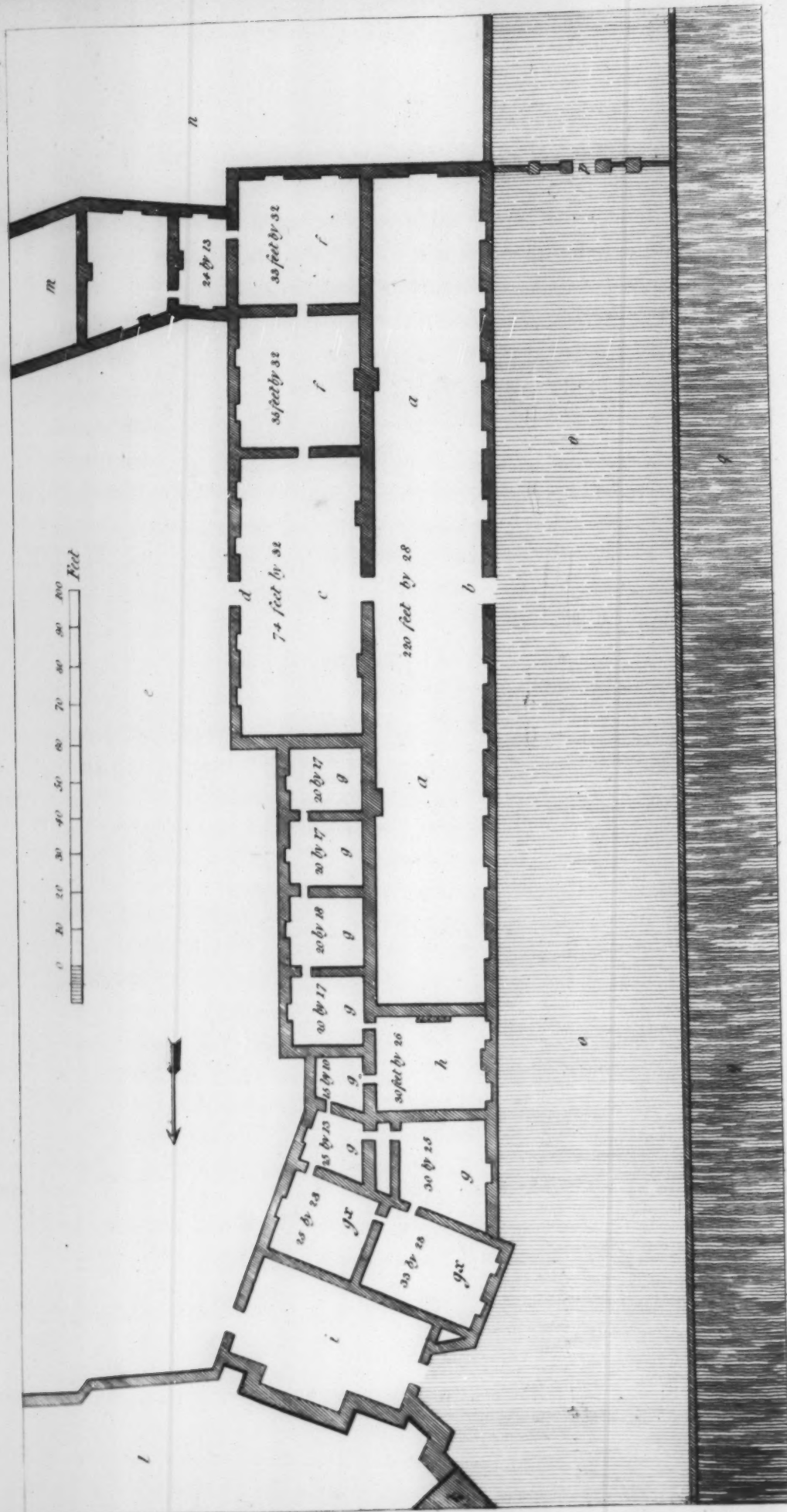
* Not 1592, as Collins has it. See the paper annexed, p. 25.

† Life by the Duchess, p. 39.

‡ Ibid. p. 105, 140. Collins, p. 26. The words of the duchess on the occasion are so remarkable that I shall transcribe them. The earl 'employed Ben Jonson in fitting such scenes and speeches as he could devise; and sent for all the gentry of the country to come and wait on their majesties; and in short did all that ever he could imagine to render it great and worthy of their royal acceptance,' p. 140. § See the Plates, I. IV. and V. || Collins p. 47.

¶ Collins, p. 26. 47. says the latter; but the Duchess, p. 4. 137. the former. It is thought, however, that her Grace is mistaken. See Biograph. Brit. vol. III. p. 329.

15 AP 57



A Plan of the Range of Buildings at Bodover now in Ruins. taken April 26th 1783.

The castle and manor held of the crown *in capite*, and had certain lands holding and depending upon them. But since the fabric can now be considered only as the capital mansion of a manor or barony, which together with *Woodthorp*, was rated, A. D. 1641, at £.846. 8s. 11d. *per annum* *, I need only add, that it went from *Cavendish* to *Hollis*, from *Hollis* to *Harley*, and from *Harley* to *Bentinck*, in which illustrious family, after the foregoing short trips and 'flittings, may it rest and continue as long as the sun and moon endure.

As to the present state of things at this place, your Grace is better acquainted with that than myself, and therefore I shall only present you with Mr. Rooke's ground-plot, and the admeasurements †. However,

* Life of the Duke, p. 97.

† References to plate IV.

- a a. Long gallery.
 - b. Grand entrance into the gallery by a flight of steps both ways from the terrace.
 - c. Saloon.
 - d. Folding doors opening into the back court.
 - e. Back court, in which are the stables and riding house, on the right.
 - f f. Drawing-rooms.
 - g g g g g g g g. All under ground.
 - g x g x. Over these was the chapel, with a door to the terrace.
 - h. Kitchen under ground.
- N. B. The ruined state of these under-ground rooms make it impossible to form a plan of the rooms over them. They were probably bed-chambers, on the same floor with the gallery and saloon.
- i. A small yard or passage from the terrace to the back court and stables.
 - k. Part of the habitable house.
 - l. South-end of the garden where the decayed fountain is.
 - m. Part of the stables.
 - n. The outer court, first entered in coming from the town.
 - o o. Terrace. Length to first gate (p) 430 feet; the whole length to the second gate 835 feet, width 47 feet.
 - qq. The slope from the terrace.

as it is possible your Grace may not have seen Mr. William Bray's Description of the Castle *, and it may afford some amusement to observe the sentiments and notions of gentlemen travellers concerning it, I shall with pleasure transcribe his words, with two or three additions and remarks upon them, wishing your grace to be umpire in those cases wherein we may happen to disagree.

'The present building,' says Mr. Bray, 'is nothing more than a house, as ill-contrived and in-convenient as ever was formed. By the arms carved in stone over the door, which are those of *Cavendish*, with a crescent for difference, empaling *Ogle*; it is to be supposed that it was built by Sir *Charles Cavendish*, mentioned at *Welbeck*†; and descended, with that estate, to the duke of *Portland*, the present owner. The outer court, in which are stables, and offices, is large, and walled in; within that is a smaller, also walled in and paved, in which stands the house, built of brown stone, square, and lofty. A flight of steps leads through a passage to a hall, not large, the roof supported by stone pillars, and from thence into the only room designed for habitation on this floor; in the center of it is a pillar supporting an arched roof, in the manner of that at *Christ Church* in *Oxford*, but much less light. Round this pillar is a plain circular table, used to dine on. Up stairs is one room moderately large, and within it a very small one, which from an old tea-table, and a set of old china standing on it, seems to have been used as a drawing-room. In the large room are several coats of arms painted, *Cavendish* empaling *Ogle*, and in different places the latter is painted alone. The rest of the rooms are very small, and not numerous. The floors of all are plaister. From the windows in general the prospects of the country are rich and extensive, reaching still farther from the leads on the top of the house. Beneath, at a small distance, lies *Sutton*, with its park, the seat of the late Mr. *Clarke*; farther off, the lofty towers of *Hardwick* are seen amongst the woods.

* Mr. Bray's Tour, 1777, 2d Edit. 1783, p. 343, & seq. † Bray, p. 239.

' What

‘What was wanting in these rooms seems to have been supplied by a range of building which is now ruined, standing on a noble terrace commanding a magnificent prospect in its full extent; the side walls and the floor of the apartments, which were entered from the terrace by a grand flight of steps, are all that remain, the roof having been taken off long ago. It is said these rooms were fitted up for the reception of Charles I. who, having visited the earl of *Newcastle* (as he was then called) at *Welbeck*, in his progress into *Scotland*, in 1633, was so well pleased with the magnificent entertainment he met with, that a year or two afterwards he made him a second visit with his queen; on this occasion he gave up *Bolsover* for their majesty’s lodging, and spared neither industry nor cost to add splendour to the entertainment, which cost him above £.14,000. *Ben Jonson* was employed in fitting such scenes and speeches as were proper on the occasion, and all the gentry in the country were sent for to wait on their majesties. This place was seized by the parliament after the duke* went abroad, and was sold and begun to be pulled down; but was then bought by Sir *Charles*, the duke’s youngest brother, and so restored to the family†.’

I wish to observe, my Lord, in addition to Mr. Bray’s narrative, that in the structure of the mansion the utmost precaution against fire was used, by making the stairs of stone, the floors of plaister‡, and the ceilings again of stone. It has been found, by long and fatal experience, that, in cases of fire, stairs of wood have been the principal means of conducting and spreading the conflagration from floor to floor, as also of endangering the lives of the poor unhappy inmates, who from this cause have been unable to escape the flames.

2. Though the first Sir Charles Cavendish erected the present mansion, as related above, yet the fountain in the garden, a very expen-

* He was not Duke then, being only created such after the Restoration.

† Collins’s Collections, p. 22. 24. 26.

‡ There is but one floor of wood, which was laid for a Mrs. Robbins, not many years ago.

sive piece of work, being most richly ornamented with a great variety of figures in stone, was undoubtedly constructed by his son William, the first Duke, and at the time that he was Marquis; for when Mr. Rooke and I were at the castle together, May 4, 1785, we found within the ruins, for it is now much spoiled and dilapidated, a marquiss's coronet*.

3. Mr. Bray supposes, through inadvertence, that Charles I. and his queen, at the time of the grand entertainment above mentioned, were lodged at Bolsover, and feasted at Welbeck; but the truth is as stated above, and proved by the references there †, that the noble host retired to Bolsover, in order to give place to his royal guests at Welbeck, and entertained them at the castle. Indeed, one is somewhat at a loss to imagine, considering the enormity of the expence on one hand, and on the other that along with the King and Queen's household, all the neighbouring gentry were invited to the Gaudy, how the castle could suffice and be competent for the purpose. But your Grace will please to reflect, that what buildings were there at that period is to us now entirely unknown; and that the grand edifice, which constitutes the west front, was probably set upon the foundations of old buildings demolished to make room for it; a good proof of this is, that the present mansion (see plates I. and II.) is placed on the site of an older structure; for on the north-west side some remains, or foundations, of the former keep are still to be seen; and that the architect Huntingdon Smithson calls the mansion *The Little House* ‡, signifying to us thereby, that another, though ruinous building of far greater dimensions, existed at the time; and it may be conjectured, and not unplausibly, that if the season of the year admitted, a large part of the company might eat their venison in the open air, in the courts, or on the terrace; as is not unusual on such populous occasions. Deem, and resolve, as you please.

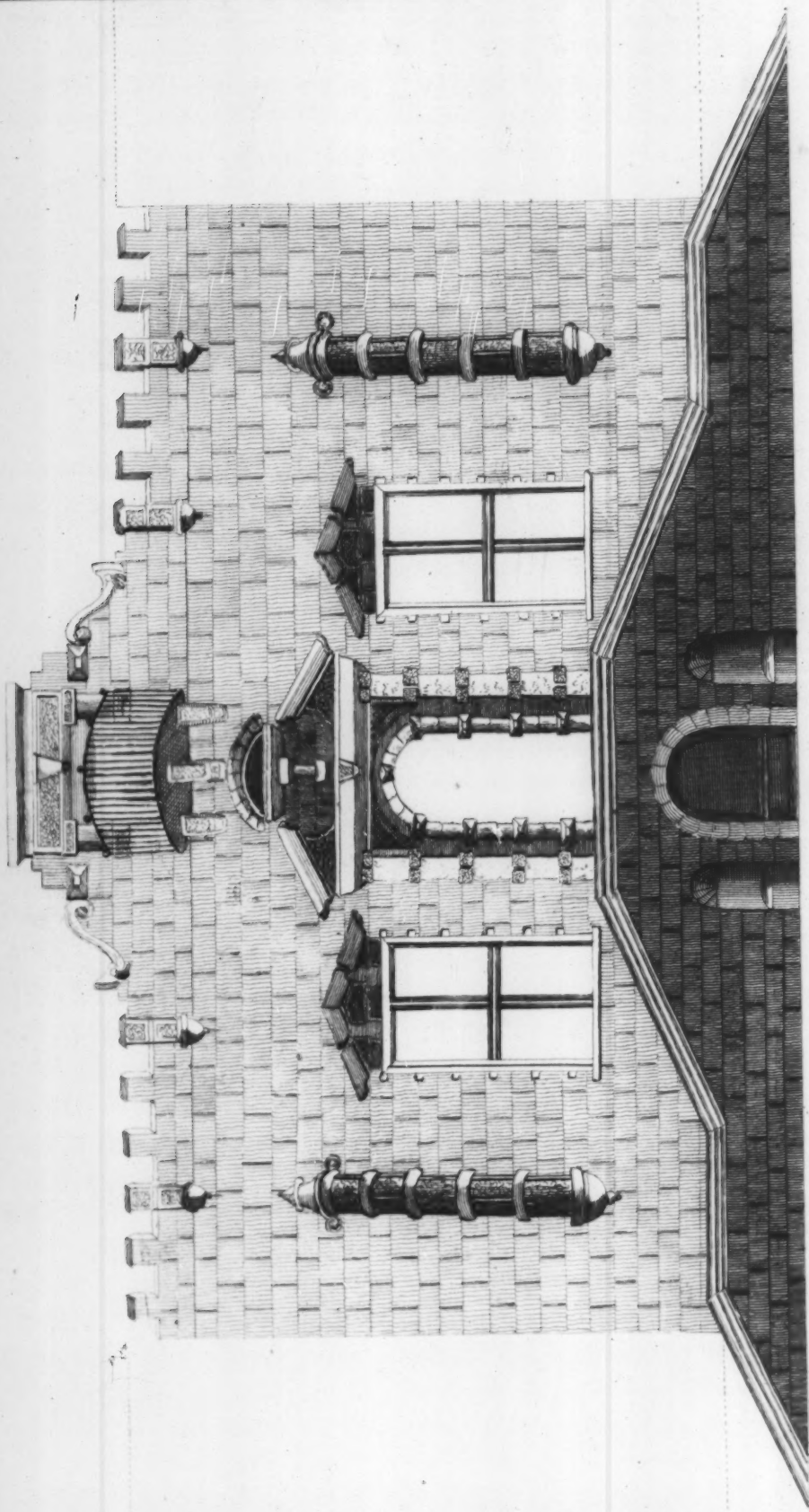
4. It is suggested again by the same gentleman, that it was on occa-

* See a description of this fountain, with drawings, by Mr. Rooke, subjoined hereunto, p. 28.

† Page 18.

‡ Vide supra, p. 21.

15 AP 57



Cock, July

Elevation of the Entrance of the West Front of Bolsover, taken April, y 26 1785.

sion of the King and Queen's visit, temp. Car. I that the now ruined pile was erected. But this is by no means admissible; for not to mention the particularity of the ornaments, or pilasters, in the form of *cannon**, which the noble Earl never would have thought of till he had been a military man, and after the civil wars, his Duchess, given as she was to extol and magnify every thing relative to his Grace's person and transactions, could not possibly omit such a splendid specimen of his grandeur had it been in being in Charles the First's time; she says, indeed, that the Duke made some *additional buildings* at Bolsover †, but these assuredly must have been different from the august structure in question, perhaps the riding-house, fountain, &c. since she could never express herself so coldly on a topic so deserving of all her best encomiastic powers. Nothing did his grace ever construct in the line of architecture, so great and magnificent as this pile. But what is most convincing in regard to this point, it is impossible, that in the short interval ‡ between Charles I. notifying to the Earl the Queen's desire of visiting, and being entertained by him, and the time of their progress to, and arrival at Welbeck, a structure of such magnitude, so majestic, and so ornamented, could ever be accomplished. See the plate N° V. exhibiting the grand entrance from the terrace into the gallery §, which is given, moreover, as a specimen of the architecture of this range of building. On all the piers from end to end are filleted pilasters resembling ancient cannon, made of forged iron and hooped. The conclusion is, that the date of this fabric must be brought down to the reign of Charles II. after the demise of the Duchess, A. D. 1673 (who, as was observed, never mentions this edifice in his Grace's life), and consequently to the latter years of the Duke, who departed this life, A. D. 1676. Indeed I find

* Vide Plate, N°. IV. † Life of the Duke, p. 93. ‡ Ib. by the Duchess.

§ On the summit of this portal there is a circular iron balustrade, or balcony, which, no doubt, could once be ascended by steps from the leads behind it, and the prospect from it to the south-west and west must have been far more extensive than that from the terrace below, though this is most astonishingly large.

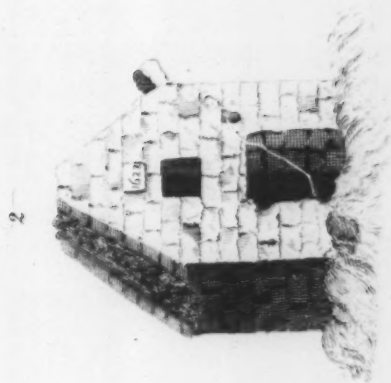
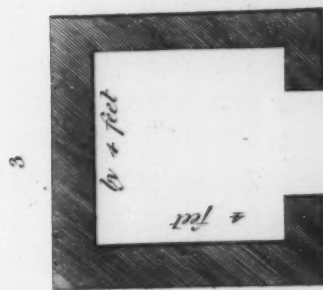
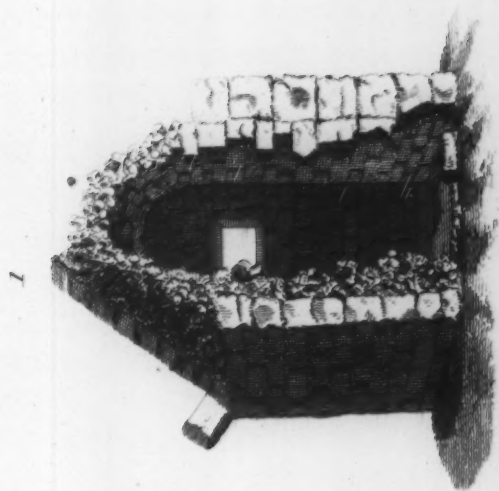
it is the tradition and opinion of the inhabitants of the town, that it was built in the reign of Charles II. who, according to them, actually made the Duke a visit here; but this particular of the visit, as appears to me at present, is rather problematical.

I shall detain your Grace no longer than just to add, that there are four very small buildings on the slope of the hill on which the castle stands, and a little southward from it, of so singular a construction, that some notice should be taken of them.

Mr. Rooke, my Lord, has made drawings of one or two of these, whence we may conceive the form and dimensions of the others. See the plate N° VI. and I shall here give his verbal description, together with his opinion concerning them: 'They are,' he says, 'about 150 yards distant from each other, and at first view seem to have been intended for *watch-houses*, having small openings towards the west, commanding a great extent of country. The roofs are circular, and in the middle of them is an aperture of about six inches square, as it were for a chimney; but as the smallness of the houses will not admit of a fire-place, being only four feet square, these openings must have been designed for some other purpose, probably for the conveyance of intelligence by signals. The height of N° I. is 9 feet. N° II. does not appear so high, the earth having fallen from the top of the hill, and covered near two feet of the building at the base. Over the door is a small square stone, with a date, which seems to be 1622*. N° III. shews the plan of N° I.'

The openings in the crowns, or roofs, of these small erections are certainly very extraordinary; and I cannot say I have ever noticed the like circumstances in watch-houses at any other place, though I have formerly seen several. It may therefore be proper to report a different sentiment from an old man of seventy at Bolsover, who declares, he heard his father say, "They were conduits to convey water to the

* If this be not the truth, perhaps it may be 1642, when colonel Muschamp was appointed Governor. Vide supra, p. 16. S. P.



15 AP 57

‘castle from a spring at *Spittle-Green*, almost half a mile south of the castle, and that he [the father] remembered taking up some of the leaden pipes in one of these small houses: he said they were then ‘called *watch-towers*.’ But why should they be called *watch-towers* if they were real conduits? To what purpose could the openings at the top, and the windows toward the west commanding such an extensive prospect of the country, serve? Neither of these particulars are necessary to conduits; but essentially so, the former to signal, and the second to watch-houses. The best way, I believe, will be, to leave the matter undetermined between the claims of plausible conjecture and precarious tradition, both of them liable, and nearly equally, to fallacy and incertitude.

In the Marquis’s time*, and after, the castle and its fountain were supplied with water by means of a water-house standing on the left as you enter the town from Duckmanton.

I have the honour, my Lord,
of being your Grace’s
most obedient servant,

Whittington,
26 Sept. 1785.

SAMUEL PEGGE.

PAPER referred to p. 18. Note 1.

The late Reverend John Griffith, of Handsworth, sent me the following extract from the parish-register there.

‘1593. Dec. 16th, William son of Sir Charles Cavendish, baptized†,’ which was thought of difficult interpretation; as it appeared not easy

* See p. 22.

† Mr. Collins, p. 25, says, William was born, 1592, which cannot be, because Sir Charles married his mother, but 11 July, 1591, Collins, p. 24; and an elder son was born before William. The same mistake occurs in Biog. Brit. taken, I suppose, from Collins.

to imagine how Sir Charles Cavendish, commonly called *Sir Charles Cavendish of Welbeck*, came to be then living at Handsworth, co. Ebor. But I believe it may be thus satisfactorily accounted for:

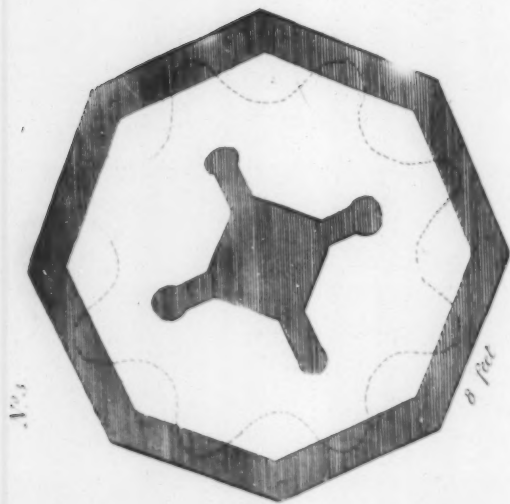
Sir Charles Cavendish lived afterwards at Welbeck undoubtedly, but then there was a particular intimacy between him and Gilbert Earl of Shrewsbury, from his childhood; and this I judge to be the reason of his first fixing at Handsworth. Please to hear what Margaret, Duchess of Newcastle, in her life of the Duke her husband, says upon the subject:

‘ There interceded an intire and constant friendship between Gilbert Earl of Shrewsbury, and my Lord’s father Sir Charles Cavendish, caused not only by the marriage of my Lord’s aunt, his father’s sister, to the aforesaid Gilbert Earl of Shrewsbury, and by the marriage of George Earl of Shrewsbury, Gilbert’s father, with my Lord’s grandmother by his father’s side; but Sir Charles Cavendish my Lord’s father, and Gilbert Earl of Shrewsbury, being brought up and bred together in one family, and grown up as parts of one body after they came to be beyond children, and travelled together into foreign countries, to observe the fashions, laws and customs of other nations, contracted an intire friendship, which lasted to their death.’

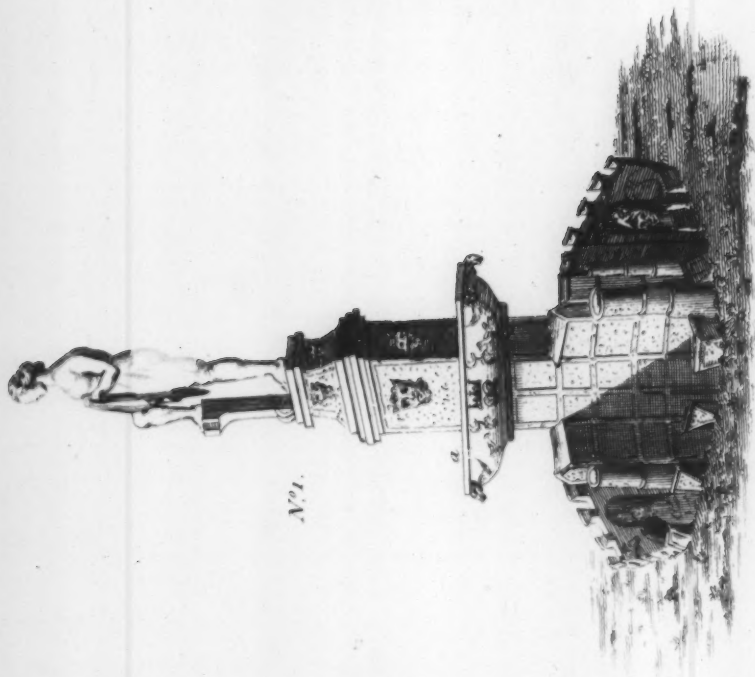
Now Earl Gilbert was living at *Sheffield manor*, A. D. 1593, for his father died 1590, and was owner of *Handsworth Hall*, not above two or three miles distant; wherefore the residence of Charles Cavendish at this Hall, his mother the celebrated countess of Shrewsbury being still living, was but a natural effect of that strict and close union subsisting between him and Earl Gilbert, as related above by the Duchess. And so it came to pass, that Sir Charles’s lady was there delivered of her son William.

DESCRIP-

15 AP 57



N°1.



N°2.



Chas. Smith.

A sketch of the Fountain at Belvoir, taken Aug^r 27, 1785.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FOUNTAIN,

Referred to in p. 22.

Being a Letter from Major ROOKE to the Rev. SAMUEL PEGGE.

DEAR SIR,

The very elegant fountain at Bolsover is, I think, well worthy of your notice. I have therefore sent you three drawings of it*.

I believe the first introduction of fountains in England was in the reign of Henry VIII. In the survey of *Nonsuch* House, it is said, there is placed one large marble wash-boule or bason, over which stands a marble pelican, fed with a pipe of lead to convey water into the same. There are also two other marble pinacles or pyramids, called the *Paulion perches*, betwixt which is placed a fountain of white marble with a lead cistern, which fountain is set round with six trees called lilack trees†.

Mr. Barrington, in his learned and entertaining paper on the Progress of Gardening, says, that Hentzner informs us that there was in the privy garden (of queen Elizabeth) a *jet d'eau*, which by turning of a cock wetted all the spectators who were standing near it‡.

James the First built, or at least improved, the palace of Theobald's, to which he likewise added a garden, thus described by Mandeslo, a traveller who visited England 1640. It is large and square, having all

* Engraved in plate VII.

† Archæologia, vol. V. p. 434.

‡ Ibid. vol. VII. p. 121.

its walls covered with fillery, and a beautiful *jet d'eau* in the centre*. The same traveller describes also the garden at Greenwich (much improved by James the First), in which he mentions a statue pouring water from a cornucopia, and a grotto†.

By the above accounts, we find they had not then arrived to that perfection in Hydraulics as appears in this fountain at Bolsover. It is placed in a small garden adjoining to the old house, or what used to be called the *little* house at Bolsover. N° I. is a sketch of the fountain; it stands in an octagon reservoir 6 feet deep, which received the water from the images and heads placed in the angles and sides (see in N° II. a section of two sides); four of these figures resemble Griffins standing upon semicircular pedestals; they are made of stone, and well executed; in the other four angles are figures like satyrs, sitting astride on birds, probably eagles; but they are now so mutilated, that their precise shape is not to be made out; on the sides are arched niches, in which are busts of eight of the Roman emperors, made of alabaster. In the centre is a square rusticated pedestal, with ornaments projecting from the angles.

Towards the middle, at (a) (see N° I.) is a cistern which was to receive the water from the masks on the sides of the pedestal, through which pipes are conveyed; the sides of this cistern are ornamented with good sculpture; in the centre is a Marquis's coronet over the Cavendish crest; on each side of it hangs a bunch of fruit, which two birds are picking at; at the corners are heads of eagles; which spouted out water: on the top of the pedestal is the statue of Venus in alabaster; she has wet drapery in her hand, with one foot on a kind of step, in the action of getting out of a bath.

N° III. is the ground-plan. The water that supplied this curious fountain was brought by pipes from a spring, about two hundred yards north of the garden, and which filled a leaden cistern about twenty feet

* Archæolog. VII. p. 121.

† Ibid.

square adjoining to the garden wall, from whence it was conveyed by pipes to the fountain.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your sincere and obliged humble servant,

Woodhouse Place,
29 Aug. 1785.

HAYMAN ROOKE.

* * * In the garden at Leigh priory was, about 20 years ago, a brick fountain of several stones, probably of the time of the Rich family, to whom the priory was granted, 27 Hen. VIII. See also the fountain in the print of the interview at the Champ de Drap d'Or. R. G.

END OF NUMBER XXXII.

BOLSOVER AND PEAK CASTLES

appears adjoining to the garden wall, from whence it was conveyed to

place in the mountain, and was there deposited, and was found in the

year 1791, when it was discovered, and was found to be a

very fine specimen of the mineral, and was found to be a

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